

Students Participate in *America's Great Outdoors* Water Education Program at Beautiful Lake Berryessa

By Michael McGraw, Lead Interpretive/Education Park Ranger
and Janet Sierzputowski, Public Affairs Specialist

During February and early March 2015, 216 fourth and fifth graders from area elementary schools and their 57 chaperones experienced sunny, spring-like weather at Lake Berryessa's Oak Shores Day Use Area while participating in Ranger-led water education programs.

On February 12, 13, 19, 20 and 27 and March 3, students came to Lake Berryessa from Nelda Mundy Elementary (Napa), Cooper Elementary (Vallejo) and Yountville Elementary to take part in the President's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative (www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors), which seeks to connect Americans – and especially children – with the great outdoors.

Reclamation Park Rangers Mike McGraw and Robert Eggert introduced the students to the local watershed, helping them to better appreciate the surrounding landscape and Lake Berryessa, the important reservoir that serves their regional water needs.

Through activities and experiential learning, the students were taught important lessons about the water cycle, water conservation, water use and the watershed while getting some exercise and engaging with the wonderful natural resources of Lake Berryessa. Water education programs are conducted at the lake during the spring and fall months of each year, attracting schools from Napa, Solano and Yolo Counties.



Rangers Robert Eggert (left) and Mike McGraw with fifth grade students from Nelda Mundy Elementary at Lake Berryessa's Oak Shores Day Use Area on Friday, February 13, 2015.